

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended.

The Office Action objects to claims 1-6 because they supposedly do not set forth any steps involved in the method. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to more clearly set forth steps. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Krause (USP 5,886,313). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of the application recites disposing a plurality of laser diode arrays in a direction of a width of a part to be processed in such a manner as to allow radiation of laser beams in the direction of the width of the part to be processed and controlling each of the laser diode arrays in accordance with the direction of the width of the part to be processed so as the shape laser beams and irradiate the part to be processed with the laser beams. In contrast, Krause discloses a laser diode array device in which laser diode arrays are stacked in a vertical direction (thickness direction of the member to be processed) one on top of the other. That is, the laser diode arrays are not disposed in a width direction of the member to be processed, as required by the claims of the present application, nor is each of the laser diode arrays controlled in accordance with a width direction of the member to be processed. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Krause.

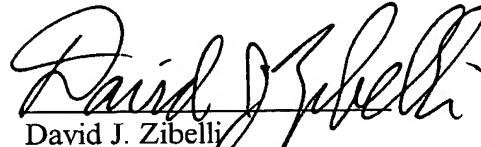
Further, the features of dependent claims 2-6 are also not shown in Krause. For example, Krause does not disclose that the distribution of energy is changed in accordance with the width position of the part to be processed, as recited in claim 2, the distribution of energy is changed by controlling each of the laser diode arrays and shaping the laser beams such that laser beams with which the part to be processed is irradiated in its widthwise marginal portions exhibit a higher intensity than laser beams with which the parts to be processed is irradiated in its widthwise central portion, as recited in claim 3, or that laser beam machining is a processing which is selected from padding, welding, and hardening and to which the part to be processed is subjected, as recited in claims 4, 5 and 6. Accordingly, none of these claims are anticipated by Krause.

For at least the above reasons, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance are solicited.

The Office is authorized to charge any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


David J. Zibelli
(Reg. No. 36,394)

Dated: September 29, 2003

KENYON & KENYON
1500 K Street, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 220-4200
Facsimile: (202) 220-4201

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